

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 23, 24, 26-36, 38-48, 50-52, 54-63 and 66-85 are pending and unamended in the present application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 23, 26-35, 38-47, 50-52, 54-59, 61-63 and 66-85 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Malamud et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0142123, hereinafter "Malamud") in view of Muller (U.S. Patent No. 4,984,152, hereinafter "Muller").

Claims 24, 36, 48, and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Malamud in view of Muller and further in view of Lektion et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,698, hereinafter "Lektion").

Claims 23 and 35 recite, among other features, "receiving a control input containing an instruction to drag at least one object ..." and "controlling the display device to, upon receipt of the control input, switch the display of the first image of the cursor to a display of a second image of the cursor in the user interface, the second image of the cursor comprising a first hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow with a first variable graphic replacing the tail comprised in the first image." Thus, the changing of the image of the cursor, to a hybrid cursor with a pointer arrow and a graphic, occurs in response to an input with an instruction to drag an object.

Malamud discloses "Each pointer has two portions, a pointing portion and an information portion ... When an information pointer is visible, only the appearance of the pointer changes, not its functionality. A user can still select, click and drag,

double-click etc., with the standard pointer, the same hot spot, and with the same precision." Malamud, paragraph [0042]. By stating that a user can still click and drag, Malamud admits that their system does not switch the display of the cursor image to include the information portion upon receipt of a control input containing an instruction to drag. Rather, Malamud already has an information box in place before dragging begins.

Malamud also discloses that an information box may appear after the user has begun dragging, namely, once the object is dragged over a target object. "When over a possible target object, an information box that contains information informing the user of the consequence of completing the operation of dropping the selected source object onto the target object to which the cursor is currently pointing appears," Malamud, paragraph [0078]. Malamud also discloses changing the cursor after dragging has begun in paragraph [0047], "[t]he target object name is not shown until the pointing portion 28 of the name information pointer 26 is moved to point to the target object."

Muller fails to cure this deficiency because Muller discloses that their invention should be invoked after a delay instead of in response to mouse operation. "(1) No mouse operation is required to produce the image region under this invention, whereas a specific mouse operation is required to produce a pop-up menu. (2) Under this invention, the image region appears after an assignable delay period, whereas a popUp menu will not appear unless invoked by the user through the mouse operation." Muller, col. 4, ln. 63 - col. 5, ln. 3 Thus, Muller teaches away from invoking functionality in response to a control input such as a mouse click.

Lecture fails to cure this deficiency because Lecture is directed to providing information during a busy cycle, i.e., when system is unable to receive control input.

Lecture, title and abstract.

Claims 24, 26-34 and 70-73 are allowable at least for their dependence from claim 23.

Claims 36, 38-46 and 74-77 are allowable at least for their dependence from claim 35.

Claims 47 and 59 are allowable at least because they recite similar elements as those discussed above.

Claims 48, 50-52, 54-58 and 78-81 are allowable at least for their dependence from claim 47.

Claims 60-63, 66, 82-85 are allowable at least for their dependence from claim 59.

Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of present application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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